

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 664

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority for their meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor and specially commend those distinguished organizations whose stated goals advance the most noble precepts of human endeavors and whose history of service in pursuit of those goals is an outstanding example to the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, fraternities and sororities have been and continue to be major contributors to the cultural, social, and civic lives of their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable sorority, Beta Sigma Phi has offered hundreds of thousands of women the opportunity to improve themselves, serve their communities, and build lasting friendships with their fellow members; and

WHEREAS, chartered during the Great Depression, Beta Sigma Phi was founded by Walter W. Ross for the purpose of providing women with a nurturing social, cultural, and educational environment, to which many did not have access in those trying economic times; and

WHEREAS, known internationally as “The Friendship Organization”, its earliest members succeeded in raising \$22 million in war bonds during War World II, beginning an enduring tradition of community service and fundraising; and

WHEREAS, in the prosperity of the 1950s, the organization enjoyed a decade of grand balls, elegant teas, and a flourishing sisterhood that doubled in membership; and

WHEREAS, Beta Sigma Phi today consists of 119 active chapters and 1,794 members, including notable Tennesseans Kim Helper, District Attorney General for the 21st Judicial District, Cheryl Wilson, Williamson County Commissioner, and Linda Kollman, Treasurer of the

Protocol & Distinguished Guests Committee with the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women & National Republican Women's Federation; and

WHEREAS, members continue to foster deep and meaningful friendships at various social gatherings and participate in a number of cultural programs on subjects such as the arts, gardening, and running in-home businesses; and

WHEREAS, additionally Beta Sigma Phi collects more than \$3 million for local charities and contributes over 200,000 service hours every year; and

WHEREAS, individual chapters have developed international funds that raise millions of dollars for health research groups, hunger initiatives, and many other worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, forever exhibiting its motto "I am thy Sister", Beta Sigma Phi provides members and their families with financial assistance in the form of international loans, scholarships, and disaster relief funds; and

WHEREAS, thanks to its high ideals and standards, Beta Sigma Phi has flourished for more than eighty years, providing many exciting opportunities for the development of social and leadership skills in a diverse atmosphere of sisterhood, camaraderie, and mutual respect; and

WHEREAS, given the organization's extensive history of public service, the State of Tennessee gladly welcomes its sisters as they attend the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority State Convention in Franklin, June 15-17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor these respectable women, who have made countless contributions to the cultural, social, and civic lives of their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of Beta Sigma Phi, salute their commitment to excellence in all their endeavors, and wish them continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.